

Greenland

Greenland (Greenlandic: *Kalaallit Nunaat*, pronounced [kalaːʔit nunaːt]; Danish: *Grønland*, pronounced [ˈɡʁœnˌlanˀ]) is an autonomous constituent country of the Kingdom of Denmark between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans, east of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Though physiographically a part of the continent of North America, Greenland has been politically and culturally associated with Europe (specifically Norway and Denmark,

the colonial powers, as well as the nearby island of Iceland) for more than a millennium.^[9] The majority of its residents are Inuit, whose ancestors began migrating from the Canadian mainland in the 13th century, gradually settling across the island.

Greenland

Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenlandic)

Grønland (Danish)



Flag

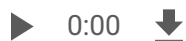


Coat of arms

Anthem:

Nunarput utoqqarsuanngoravit

You Our Ancient Land



Nuna asiilasooq^[a]
The Land of Great Length



Location of **Greenland**



Location of the Kingdom of Denmark consisting of **Greenland**, the Faroe Islands (circled) and Denmark

Capital

Nuuk

and largest city

64°10'N 51°44'W

Official languages

Greenlandic^[a]

Other languages

Danish, Faroese,

	<u>Icelandic, Norwegian and English</u> ^[a]
<u>Ethnic groups</u>	88% <u>Greenlandic Inuit</u> 12% <u>Danes</u> and other <u>Europeans</u> ^{[2][b]}
Religion	<u>Church of Denmark</u>
<u>Demonym(s)</u>	Greenlander Greenlandic
Sovereign state	<u>Kingdom of Denmark</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Devolved government within parliamentary constitutional monarchy</u>
• <u>Monarch</u>	<u>Margrethe II</u>
• <u>High Commissioner</u>	<u>Mikaela Engell</u>
• Premier	Kim Kielsen

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Information</u>
• <u>Speaker of the <i>Inatsisartut</i></u>	<u>Hans Enoksen</u>
Legislature	<u><i>Inatsisartut</i></u>
Autonomy within the <u>Kingdom of Denmark</u>	
• <u>Paleo-Eskimo settlement</u>	26th century BC
• <u>Saqqaq expansion</u>	24th century BC
• <u>Dorset settlement</u>	8th century BC
• <u>Norse colonization</u>	10th century
• <u>Arrival of the Inuit</u>	13th century
• <u>Unification with Norway</u> ^[b]	1262
• <u>Dano-Norwegian colonies</u>	1721

established

- Ceded to Denmark^[c] 14 January 1814
- Amt status 5 June 1953
- Home rule 1 May 1979
- Further autonomy and self rule 21 June 2009^{[3][4]}

Area

- Total 2,166,086 km²
(836,330 sq mi)
- Water (%) 83.1^[d]

Population

- Estimate 55,877 (1 January 2018)^[5]
- Density 0.028/km² (0.1/sq mi)
(last)

<u>GDP</u> (<u>PPP</u>)	2011 estimate
• Total	\$1.8 billion ^[6] (<u>n/a</u>)
• Per capita	\$37,000 (<u>n/a</u>)
<u>HDI</u> (2010)	▲ 0.786 ^[7] high · <u>61st</u>
Currency	<u>Danish krone</u> (<u>DKK</u>)
Time zone	<u>UTC</u> ±00:00 to UTC-04:00
Date format	dd-mm-yyyy
<u>Driving side</u>	right
<u>Calling code</u>	<u>+299</u>
<u>ISO 3166 code</u>	<u>GL</u>
<u>Internet TLD</u>	<u>.gl</u>
a. ^ Greenlandic has been the sole official language of Greenland since 2009. ^{[3][8]}	

b. ^ Danish influence reached Greenland in 1380 with the reign of Olav IV in Norway, son of Haakon VI of Norway and Margaret I of Denmark.

c. ^ Although previously under Danish monarchy for four hundred years, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and Iceland were formally Norwegian possessions until 1814.

d. ^ As of 2000:

410,449 km² (158,475 sq mi) ice-free;

1,755,637 km² (677,855 sq mi) ice-covered.

Density: 0.14/km² (0.36 /sq. mi) for ice-free areas.

Greenland is the world's largest island.

Australia and Antarctica (both larger) are generally considered to be continental landmasses rather than islands.^[10] Three-quarters of Greenland is covered by the

only permanent ice sheet outside Antarctica. With a population of about 56,480 (2013),^[6] it is the least densely populated territory in the world.^[11] About a third of the population live in Nuuk, the capital and largest city. The Arctic Umiaq Line ferry acts as a lifeline for western Greenland, connecting the various cities and settlements.

Greenland has been inhabited off and on for at least the last 4,500 years by Arctic peoples whose forebears migrated there from what is now Canada.^{[12][13]} Norsemen settled the uninhabited southern part of Greenland beginning in the 10th century,

having previously settled Iceland to escape persecution from the King of Norway and his central government. These Norsemen would later set sail from Greenland and Iceland, with Leif Erikson becoming the first known European to reach North America nearly 500 years before Columbus reached the Caribbean islands. Inuit peoples arrived in the 13th century. Though under continuous influence of Norway and Norwegians, Greenland was not formally under the Norwegian crown until 1262. The Norse colonies disappeared in the late 15th century when Norway was hit by the Black Death and entered a severe decline.

Soon after their demise, beginning in 1499, the Portuguese briefly explored and claimed the island, naming it *Terra do Lavrador* (later applied to Labrador in Canada).^[14]

In the early 18th century, Danish explorers reached Greenland again. To strengthen trading and power, Denmark–Norway affirmed sovereignty over the island.

Because of Norway's weak status, it lost sovereignty over Greenland in 1814 when the union was dissolved. Greenland became Danish in 1814, and was fully integrated in the Danish state in 1953 under the Constitution of Denmark.

In 1973, Greenland joined the European Economic Community with Denmark.

However, in a referendum in 1982, a majority of the population voted for Greenland to withdraw from the EEC, which was effected in 1985. Greenland contains the world's largest and most northerly national park, Northeast Greenland National Park (*Kalaallit Nunaanni nuna eqqissisimatitaq*).

Established in 1974, and expanded to its present size in 1988, it protects 972,001 square kilometres (375,292 sq mi) of the interior and northeastern coast of Greenland and is bigger than all but twenty-nine countries in the world.

Greenland is divided into five municipalities – Sermersooq, Kujalleq, Qeqertalik, Qeqqata, and Avannaata.^[15]

Greenland does not have an independent seat at the United Nations.^[16]

In 1979, Denmark granted home rule to Greenland, and in 2008, Greenlanders voted in favor of the Self-Government Act, which transferred more power from the Danish government to the local Greenlandic government. Under the new structure, in effect since 21 June 2009,^[17] Greenland can gradually assume responsibility for policing, judicial system, company law, accounting, and auditing;

mineral resource activities; aviation; law of legal capacity, family law and succession law; aliens and border controls; the working environment; and financial regulation and supervision, while the Danish government retains control of foreign affairs and defence. It also retains control of monetary policy, providing an initial annual subsidy of DKK 3.4 billion, which is planned to diminish gradually over time. Greenland expects to grow its economy based on increased income from the extraction of natural resources. The capital, Nuuk, held the 2016 Arctic Winter Games. At 70%, Greenland has one of the

highest shares of renewable energy in the world, mostly coming from hydropower.^[18]

Etymology

The early Norse settlers named the island as *Greenland*. In the Icelandic sagas, the Norwegian-born Icелander Erik the Red was said to be exiled from Iceland for manslaughter. Along with his extended family and his thralls (i.e. slaves or serfs), he set out in ships to explore an icy land known to lie to the northwest. After finding a habitable area and settling there, he named it Grœnland (translated as "Greenland"), supposedly in the hope that

the pleasant name would attract settlers.^{[19][20][21]} The *Saga of Erik the Red* states: "In the summer, Erik left to settle in the country he had found, which he called Greenland, as he said people would be attracted there if it had a favorable name."^[22]

The name of the country in the indigenous Greenlandic language is *Kalaallit Nunaat* ("land of the Kalaallit").^[23] The Kalaallit are the indigenous Greenlandic Inuit people who inhabit the country's western region.

History

Early Paleo-Eskimo cultures

Maps showing the different cultures in Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland and the Canadian arctic islands in the years 900, 1100, 1300 and 1500. Green:

Dorset Culture; blue: Thule Culture; red: Norse culture; yellow: Innu; orange: Beothuk.

In prehistoric times, Greenland was home to several successive Paleo-Eskimo cultures known today primarily through archaeological finds. The earliest entry of the Paleo-Eskimo into Greenland is thought to have occurred about 2500 BC. From around 2500 BC to 800 BC, southern and western Greenland were inhabited by the Saqqaq culture. Most finds of Saqqaq-period archaeological remains have been around Disko Bay, including the site of Saqqaq, after which the culture is named.^{[24][25]}

From 2400 BC to 1300 BC, the Independence I culture existed in northern Greenland. It was a part of the Arctic small tool tradition.^{[26][27][28]} Towns, including Deltaterrasserne, started to appear.

Around 800 BC, the Saqqaq culture disappeared and the Early Dorset culture emerged in western Greenland and the Independence II culture in northern Greenland.^[29] The Dorset culture was the first culture to extend throughout the Greenlandic coastal areas, both on the west and east coasts. It lasted until the total onset of the Thule culture in 1500 AD. The Dorset culture population lived

primarily from hunting of whales and caribou.^{[30][31][32][33]}

Norse settlement

From 986, Greenland's west coast was settled by Icelanders and Norwegians, through a contingent of 14 boats led by Erik the Red. They formed three settlements—known as the Eastern Settlement, the Western Settlement and the Middle Settlement—on fjords near the southwestern-most tip of the island.^{[9][34]} They shared the island with the late Dorset culture inhabitants who occupied the northern and western parts, and later with

the Thule culture that entered from the north. Norse Greenlanders submitted to Norwegian rule in 1261 under the Kingdom of Norway (872–1397). Later the Kingdom of Norway entered into a personal union with Denmark in 1380, and from 1397 was a part of the Kalmar Union.^[35]

Kingittorsuaq Runestone from Kingittorsuaq Island
(Middle Ages)

Erik the Red's recruitment of others to settle in Greenland has been characterized recently as a land scam, the scam (and the

name) portraying Greenland as better farm land than in Iceland.^[36]

The Norse settlements, such as Brattahlíð, thrived for centuries but disappeared sometime in the 15th century, perhaps at the onset of the Little Ice Age.^[37] Apart from some runic inscriptions, no contemporary records or historiography survives from the Norse settlements.

Medieval Norwegian sagas and historical works mention Greenland's economy as well as the bishops of Gardar and the collection of tithes. A chapter in the Konungs skuggsjá (The King's Mirror)

describes Norse Greenland's exports and imports as well as grain cultivation.

Icelandic saga accounts of life in Greenland were composed in the 13th century and later, and do not constitute primary sources for the history of early Norse Greenland.^[21] Modern understanding therefore mostly depends on the physical data from archeological sites. Interpretation of ice core and clam shell data suggests that between 800 and 1300, the regions around the fjords of southern Greenland experienced a relatively mild climate several degrees Celsius higher than usual in the North

Atlantic,^[38] with trees and herbaceous plants growing, and livestock being farmed. Barley was grown as a crop up to the 70th parallel.^[39] What is verifiable is that the ice cores indicate Greenland has had dramatic temperature shifts many times over the past 100,000 years.^[40] Similarly the Icelandic Book of Settlements records famines during the winters, in which "the old and helpless were killed and thrown over cliffs".^[38]

One of the last contemporary written mentions of the

One of the last contemporary written mentions of the Norse Greenlanders records a marriage which took place in 1408 in the church of Hvalsey—today the best-preserved Nordic ruins in Greenland.

These Icelandic settlements vanished during the 14th and early 15th centuries.^[41] The demise of the Western Settlement coincides with a decrease in summer and winter temperatures. A study of North Atlantic seasonal temperature variability during the Little Ice Age showed a significant decrease in maximum summer temperatures beginning in the late 13th century to early 14th century—as much as 6 to 8 °C (11 to 14 °F) lower than modern

summer temperatures.^[42] The study also found that the lowest winter temperatures of the last 2000 years occurred in the late 14th century and early 15th century. The Eastern Settlement was likely abandoned in the early to mid-15th century, during this cold period.

Theories drawn from archeological excavations at Herjolfsnes in the 1920s, suggest that the condition of human bones from this period indicates that the Norse population was malnourished, maybe due to soil erosion resulting from the Norsemen's destruction of natural vegetation in the course of farming, turf-

cutting, and wood-cutting. Malnutrition may also have resulted from widespread deaths due to pandemic plague;^[43] the decline in temperatures during the Little Ice Age; and armed conflicts with the Skrælings (Norse word for Inuit, meaning "wretches"^[37]). In 1379, the Inuit attacked the Eastern Settlement, killed 18 men and captured two boys and a woman.^[37]

Recent archeological studies somewhat challenge the general assumption that the Norse colonisation had a dramatic negative environmental effect on the vegetation. Data support traces of a possible Norse soil amendment strategy.^[44] More recent evidence

suggests that the Norse, who never numbered more than about 2,500, gradually abandoned the Greenland settlements over the 1400s as walrus ivory,^[45] the most valuable export from Greenland, decreased in price due to competition with other sources of higher-quality ivory, and that there was actually little evidence of starvation or difficulties.^[46]

Other theories about the disappearance of the Norse settlement have been proposed;

1. Lack of support from the homeland.^[43]

2. Ship-borne marauders (such as Basque, English, or German pirates) rather than Skraelings, could have plundered and displaced the Greenlanders.^[47]

3. They were "the victims of hidebound thinking and of a hierarchical society dominated by the Church and the biggest land owners. In their reluctance to see themselves as anything but Europeans, the Greenlanders failed to adopt the kind of apparel that the Inuit employed as protection against the cold and damp or to borrow any of the Eskimo hunting gear."^{[9][37]}

4. "Norse society's structure created a conflict between the short-term interests of those in power, and the long-term interests of the society as a whole."^[37]

Thule culture (1300–present)

Pictures of Greenland, c. 1863

The Thule people are the ancestors of the current Greenlandic population. No genes from the Paleo-Eskimos have been found

in the present population of Greenland.^[48]

The Thule Culture migrated eastward from what is now known as Alaska around 1000, reaching Greenland around 1300.

The Thule culture was the first to introduce to Greenland such technological innovations as dog sleds and toggling harpoons.

1500–1814

In 1500, King Manuel I of Portugal sent Gaspar Corte-Real to Greenland in search of a Northwest Passage to Asia which, according to the Treaty of Tordesillas, was part of Portugal's sphere of influence. In

1501, Corte-Real returned with his brother, Miguel Corte-Real. Finding the sea frozen, they headed south and arrived in Labrador and Newfoundland. Upon the brothers' return to Portugal, the cartographic information supplied by Corte-Real was incorporated into a new map of the world which was presented to Ercole I d'Este, Duke of Ferrara, by Alberto Cantino in 1502. The Cantino planisphere, made in Lisbon, accurately depicts the southern coastline of Greenland.^[49]

A 1747 map based on Egede's descriptions and misconceptions

In 1605–1607, King Christian IV of Denmark sent a series of expeditions to Greenland and Arctic waterways to locate the lost eastern Norse settlement and assert Danish sovereignty over Greenland. The expeditions were mostly unsuccessful, partly due to leaders who lacked experience with the difficult arctic ice and weather conditions, and partly because the expedition leaders were given instructions to search for the Eastern Settlement on the east coast of Greenland just north of Cape Farewell, which is

almost inaccessible due to southward drifting ice. The pilot on all three trips was English explorer James Hall.

Godthåb in Greenland, c. 1878

After the Norse settlements died off, Greenland came under the de facto control of various Inuit groups, but the Danish government never forgot or relinquished the claims to Greenland that it had inherited from the Norse. When it re-

established contact with Greenland in the early 17th century, Denmark asserted its sovereignty over the island. In 1721, a joint mercantile and clerical expedition led by Danish-Norwegian missionary Hans Egede was sent to Greenland, not knowing whether a Norse civilization remained there. This expedition is part of the Dano-Norwegian colonization of the Americas. After 15 years in Greenland, Hans Egede left his son Paul Egede in charge of the mission there and returned to Denmark, where he established a Greenland Seminary. This new colony was centred at Godthåb ("Good Hope") on the southwest coast. Gradually, Greenland was opened

up to Danish merchants, and closed to those from other countries.

Treaty of Kiel to World War II

Eirik Raudes Land

When the union between the crowns of Denmark and Norway was dissolved in 1814, the Treaty of Kiel severed Norway's

former colonies and left them under the control of the Danish monarch. Norway occupied then-uninhabited eastern Greenland as Erik the Red's Land in July 1931, claiming that it constituted terra nullius. Norway and Denmark agreed to submit the matter in 1933 to the Permanent Court of International Justice, which decided against Norway.^[50]

Greenland's connection to Denmark was severed on 9 April 1940, early in World War II, after Denmark was occupied by Nazi Germany. On 8 April 1941, the United States occupied Greenland to defend it against a possible invasion by Germany.^[51]

The United States occupation of Greenland continued until 1945. Greenland was able to buy goods from the United States and Canada by selling cryolite from the mine at Ivittuut. The major air bases were Bluie West-1 at Narsarsuaq and Bluie West-8 at Søndre Strømfjord (Kangerlussuaq), both of which are still used as Greenland's major international airports. Bluie was the military code name for Greenland.

During this war, the system of government changed: Governor Eske Brun ruled the island under a law of 1925 that allowed governors to take control under extreme

circumstances; Governor Aksel Svane was transferred to the United States to lead the commission to supply Greenland. The Danish Sirius Patrol guarded the northeastern shores of Greenland in 1942 using dogsleds. They detected several German weather stations and alerted American troops, who destroyed the facilities. After the collapse of the Third Reich, Albert Speer briefly considered escaping in a small aeroplane to hide out in Greenland, but changed his mind and decided to surrender to the United States Armed Forces.^[52]

Greenland had been a protected and very isolated society until 1940. The Danish government had maintained a strict monopoly of Greenlandic trade, allowing only small scale trading with Scottish whalers. In wartime Greenland developed a sense of self-reliance through self-government and independent communication with the outside world. Despite this change, in 1946 a commission including the highest Greenlandic council, the Landsrådene, recommended patience and no radical reform of the system. Two years later, the first step towards a change of government was initiated when a grand commission

was established. A final report (G-50) was presented in 1950: Greenland was to be a modern welfare state with Denmark as sponsor and example. In 1953 Greenland was made an equal part of the Danish Kingdom. Home rule was granted in 1979.

Home rule and self-rule

The orthography and vocabulary of the Greenlandic language is governed by Oqaasileriffik, the Greenlandic language secretariat, located in the Ilimmarfik University of Greenland, Nuuk.

Following World War II, the United States developed a geopolitical interest in Greenland, and in 1946 the United States offered to buy the island from Denmark for \$100,000,000. Denmark refused to sell it.^{[53][54]} In the 21st century, the United States, according to WikiLeaks, remains highly interested in investing in the resource base of Greenland and in tapping hydrocarbons off the Greenlandic coast.^{[55][56]}

In 1950 Denmark agreed to allow the US to reestablish Thule Air Base in Greenland; it was greatly expanded between 1951 and

1953 as part of a unified NATO Cold War defense strategy. The local population of three nearby villages was moved more than 100 kilometres (62 mi) away in the winter. The United States tried to construct a subterranean network of secret nuclear missile launch sites in the Greenlandic ice cap, named Project Iceworm. It managed this project from Camp Century from 1960 to 1966 before abandoning it as unworkable. The Danish government did not become aware of the program's mission until 1997, when they discovered it while looking for records related to the crash of a nuclear-equipped B-52 bomber at Thule in 1968.

With the 1953 Danish constitution, Greenland's colonial status ended as the island was incorporated into the Danish realm as an amt (county). Danish citizenship was extended to Greenlanders. Danish policies toward Greenland consisted of a strategy of cultural assimilation—or de-Greenlandification. During this period, the Danish government promoted the exclusive use of the Danish language in official matters, and required Greenlanders to go to Denmark for their post-secondary education. Many Greenlandic children grew up in boarding schools in southern Denmark, and a number lost their cultural ties to

Greenland. While the policies "succeeded" in the sense of shifting Greenlanders from being primarily subsistence hunters into being urbanized wage earners, the Greenlandic elite began to reassert a Greenlandic cultural identity. A movement developed in favour of independence, reaching its peak in the 1970s.^[57] As a consequence of political complications in relation to Denmark's entry into the European Common Market in 1972, Denmark began to seek a different status for Greenland, resulting in the Home Rule Act of 1979.

This gave Greenland limited autonomy with its own legislature taking control of some internal policies, while the Parliament of Denmark maintained full control of external policies, security, and natural resources. The law came into effect on 1 May 1979. The Queen of Denmark, Margrethe II, remains Greenland's Head of state. In 1985, Greenland left the European Economic Community (EEC) upon achieving self-rule, as it did not agree with the EEC's commercial fishing regulations and an EEC ban on seal skin products.^[58] Greenland voters approved a referendum on greater autonomy on 25 November 2008.^{[59][60]}

According to one study, the 2008 vote created what "can be seen as a system between home rule and full independence."^[61]

On 21 June 2009, Greenland gained self-rule with provisions for assuming responsibility for self-government of judicial affairs, policing, and natural resources. Also, Greenlanders were recognized as a separate people under international law. (One country, two systems)^[62] Denmark maintains control of foreign affairs and defence matters. Denmark upholds the annual block grant of 3.2 billion Danish kroner, but as

Greenland begins to collect revenues of its natural resources, the grant will gradually be diminished. This is generally considered to be a step toward eventual full independence from Denmark.^[63]

Greenlandic was declared the sole official language of Greenland at the historic ceremony.^{[3][8][64][65][66]}

Geography and climate

Greenland map of Köppen climate classification

Map of Greenland

Greenland is the world's largest non-continental island^[67] and the third largest country in North America.^[68] It is between latitudes 59° and 83°N, and longitudes 11° and 74°W. The Atlantic Ocean borders Greenland's southeast; the Greenland Sea is to the east; the Arctic Ocean is to the north; and Baffin Bay is to the west. The

nearest countries are Canada, to the west and southwest across Baffin Bay, and Iceland, east of Greenland in the Atlantic Ocean. Greenland also contains the world's largest national park, and it is the largest dependent territory by area in the world, as well as the fourth largest country subdivision in the world, after Sakha Republic in Russia, Australia's state of Western Australia, and Russia's Krasnoyarsk Krai, and the largest in North America.

Southeast coast of Greenland

The average daily temperature of Nuuk, Greenland varies over the seasons from -8 to $7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (18 to $45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$). The total area of Greenland is $2,166,086\text{ km}^2$ ($836,330\text{ sq mi}$) (including other offshore minor islands), of which the Greenland ice sheet covers $1,755,637\text{ km}^2$ ($677,855\text{ sq mi}$) (81%) and has a volume of approximately $2,850,000\text{ km}^3$ ($680,000\text{ cu mi}$).^[69] The highest point on Greenland is Gunnbjørn Fjeld at $3,700\text{ m}$ ($12,139\text{ ft}$) of the Watkins Range (East Greenland mountain range). The majority

of Greenland, however, is less than 1,500 m (4,921 ft) in elevation.

The weight of the ice sheet has depressed the central land area to form a basin lying more than 300 m (984 ft) below sea level,^{[70][71]} while elevations rise suddenly and steeply near the coast.^[72] The ice flows generally to the coast from the centre of the island. A survey led by French scientist Paul-Emile Victor in 1951 concluded that, under the ice sheet, Greenland is composed of three large islands.^[73] This is disputed, but if it is so, they would be separated by narrow straits, reaching the sea at Ilulissat Icefjord, at

Greenland's Grand Canyon and south of Nordostrundingen.

All towns and settlements of Greenland are situated along the ice-free coast, with the population being concentrated along the west coast. The northeastern part of Greenland is not part of any municipality, but it is the site of the world's largest national park, Northeast Greenland National Park.^[74]

View of mountains on Greenland from the air

At least four scientific expedition stations and camps had been established on the ice sheet in the ice-covered central part of Greenland (indicated as pale blue in the adjacent map): Eismitte, North Ice, North GRIP Camp and The Raven Skiway. There is a year-round station Summit Camp on the ice sheet, established in 1989. The radio station Jørgen Brønlund Fjord was, until 1950, the northernmost permanent outpost in the world.

Southern Greenland is suitable for agriculture. Hay is harvested in Igaliku, Kujalleq.

The extreme north of Greenland, Peary Land, is not covered by an ice sheet, because the air there is too dry to produce snow, which is essential in the production and maintenance of an ice sheet. If the Greenland ice sheet were to melt away completely, the world's sea level would rise by more than 7 m (23 ft).^[75]

Between 1989 and 1993, US and European climate researchers drilled into the summit of Greenland's ice sheet, obtaining a pair of 3 km (1.9 mi) long ice cores. Analysis of the layering and chemical composition of the cores has provided a revolutionary new record of climate change in the Northern Hemisphere going back about 100,000 years and illustrated that the world's weather and temperature have often shifted rapidly from one seemingly stable state to another, with worldwide consequences.^[76] The glaciers of Greenland are also contributing to a rise in the global sea level faster than was previously believed.^[77] Between 1991 and

2004, monitoring of the weather at one location (Swiss Camp) showed that the average winter temperature had risen almost 6 °C (11 °F).^[78] Other research has shown that higher snowfalls from the North Atlantic oscillation caused the interior of the ice cap to thicken by an average of 6 cm or 2.36 in/y between 1994 and 2005.^[79] However, a recent study suggests a much warmer planet in relatively recent geological times.^[80]

Scientists who probed 2 km (1.2 mi) through a Greenland glacier to recover the oldest

plant DNA on record said that the planet was far warmer hundreds of thousands of years ago than is generally believed. DNA of trees, plants, spiders and insects including butterflies from beneath the southern Greenland glacier was estimated to date to 450,000 to 900,000 years ago, according to the remnants retrieved from this long-vanished boreal forest. That view contrasts sharply with the prevailing one that a

lush forest of this kind could not have existed in Greenland any later than 2.4 million years ago. These DNA samples suggest that the temperature probably reached 10 °C (50 °F) in the summer and −17 °C (1.4 °F) in the winter. They also indicate that during the last interglacial period, 130,000–116,000 years ago, when local temperatures were on average 5 °C (9 °F) higher than now, the glaciers on

Greenland did not completely melt away.

View of Kangertittivaq in eastern Greenland, one of the largest sund-fjord systems in the world

Greenland bedrock, at current elevation above sea level

In 2003, a small island, 35 by 15 metres (115 by 49 feet) in length and width, was discovered by arctic explorer Dennis Schmitt and his team at the coordinates of 83-42. Whether this island is permanent is not confirmed as of yet. If it is, it is the northernmost permanent known land on Earth.

In 2007 the existence of a new island was announced. Named "Uunartoq Qeqertaq" (English: *Warming Island*), this island has always been present off the coast of Greenland, but was covered by a glacier. This glacier was discovered in 2002 to be shrinking rapidly, and by 2007 had

completely melted away, leaving the exposed island.^[81] The island was named Place of the Year by the Oxford Atlas of the World in 2007.^[82] Ben Keene, the atlas's editor, commented: "In the last two or three decades, global warming has reduced the size of glaciers throughout the Arctic and earlier this year, news sources confirmed what climate scientists already knew: water, not rock, lay beneath this ice bridge on the east coast of Greenland. More islets are likely to appear as the sheet of frozen water covering the world's largest island continues to melt".^[83]

Some controversy surrounds the history of the island, specifically over whether the island might have been revealed during a brief warm period in Greenland during the mid-20th century.^[84]

Postglacial glacier advances on the peninsula Nuussuaq

The 1310 m-high Qaqugdloit-mountain-land on the south-side of the peninsula Nuussuaq, situated 50 kilometres (31 miles) west of the Greenland inland ice at 70°07'50.92"N 51°44'30.52"W, is exemplary of the numerous mountain areas of West-Greenland. Up to the year

1979 (Stage 0) it shows Historical to Holocene, i.e. Postglacial glacier stages dating back at least 7000 and at most about 10 000 years.^{[85][86]} In 1979 the glacier tongues came to an end – according to the extent and height of the glacier nourishing area – between 660 and 140 metres (2,170 and 460 feet) above sea level. The pertinent climatic glacier snowline (ELA) ran at about 800 metres (2,600 feet) in height. The snowline of the oldest (VII) of the three Holocene glacier stages (V–VII) ran about 230 metres (750 feet) deeper, i.e. at about 570 metres (1,870 feet) in height.^[87] The four youngest glacier stages (IV-I) are of a Historical age.

They have to be classified as belonging to the global glacier advances in the years 1811 to 1850 and 1880 to 1900 ("Little Ice Age"), 1910 to 1930, 1948 and 1953.^[86]

Their snowlines rose step by step up to the level of 1979. The current snowline (Stage 0) runs nearly unchanged. During the oldest Postglacial Stage VII an ice-stream-network from valley glaciers joining each other, has completely covered the landscape. Its nourishing areas consisted of high-lying plateau-glaciers and local ice caps. Due to the uplift of the snowline about that about 230 metres (750 feet) – what corresponds to a warming about 1.5 °C (2.7 °F), since 1979 there exists a

plateau-glaciation with small glacier tongues hanging down on the margins that nearly did not reach the main valley bottoms any more.^[87]

Biodiversity

Muskox in Greenland

There are approximately 700 known species of insects in Greenland, which is low compared with other countries (over

one million species have been described worldwide). The sea is rich in fish and invertebrates, especially in the milder West Greenland Current, and a large part of the Greenland fauna associated with marine production, including large colonies of seabirds. The few native land mammals in Greenland include the polar bear, reindeer, arctic fox, arctic hare, musk ox, collared lemming, ermine, and arctic wolf. The last four are found naturally only in East Greenland, having immigrated from Ellesmere Island. There are dozens of species of seals and whales along the coast. Land fauna consists predominantly of animals that have spread from North

America or for a lot of birds and insects coming from Europe. There are no native or free-living reptiles or amphibians on the island.^[88]

Phytogeographically, Greenland belongs to the Arctic province of the Circumboreal Region within the Boreal Kingdom. The island is sparsely populated in vegetation; plant life consists mainly of grassland and small bushes, which is regularly grazed by livestock. The most common tree native to Greenland is the European white birch (*Betula pubescens*) along with gray-leaf willow (*Salix glauca*), rowans (*Sorbus aucuparia*), common junipers (*Juniperus*

communis) and other smaller trees, mainly willows.

Greenland's flora comprises about 500 species of higher plants, i.e. flowering plants, ferns, horsetails and lycopodiophyta. Of the other groups, the lichens are the largest with about 950 species; of major fungal species are known 600–700; mosses and algae anything less. Most of Greenland's higher plants are widespread, particularly in arctic and alpine regions, and only a dozen species of particular saxifrage and hawkweed is endemic. A few species were

introduced by the Norsemen, such as cow
vetch.

The animals of Greenland include the Greenland dog, which was introduced by the Inuit, as well as European-introduced species such as Greenlandic sheep, goats, cattle, reindeer, horse, chicken and sheepdog, all descendants of animals imported by Europeans. Marine mammals include the hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*) as well as the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*).^[89] Whales frequently pass very close to Greenlandic shores in the late summer and early autumn. Species represented include the beluga

whale, blue whale, Greenland whale, fin whale, humpback whale, minke whale, narwhal, pilot whale, sperm whale.^[90]

Approximately 225 species of fish are known from the waters surrounding Greenland, and the fishing industry is a major part of Greenland's economy, accounting for the majority of the country's total exports.

Birds, especially seabirds, are an important part of Greenland's animal life. On steep mountainsides breed large colonies of auks, puffins, skuas, and kittiwakes. By common ducks include eiders, long-tailed

ducks and the king eider and in West Greenland white-fronted goose and in East Greenland pink-footed goose and barnacle goose. Breeding migratory birds are also including snow bunting, lapland bunting, ringed plover, red-throated loon and red-necked phalarope. Of land birds that are usually sedentary, can be highlighted arctic redpoll, ptarmigan, short-eared owl, snowy owl, gyrfalcon and in West Greenland the white-tailed eagle.^[88]

Politics

Margrethe II,
Queen since 1972

Kim Kielsen,
Premier since 2014

Lars Løkke Rasmussen,
Prime Minister since 2015

Greenland Government Building

The Kingdom of Denmark is a
constitutional monarchy, in which Queen
Margrethe II is the head of state. The

monarch officially retains executive power and presides over the Council of State (privy council).^{[91][92]} However, following the introduction of a parliamentary system of government, the duties of the monarch have since become strictly representative and ceremonial,^[93] such as the formal appointment and dismissal of the Prime Minister and other ministers in the executive government. The monarch is not answerable for his or her actions, and the monarch's person is sacrosanct.^[94]

Political system

The party system is dominated by the social-democratic Forward Party, and the democratic socialist Inuit Community Party, both of which broadly argue for greater independence from Denmark. While the 2009 election saw the unionist—and largely Danish—Democrat Party (2 MPs) decline greatly, the 2013 election consolidated the power of the two main parties at the expense of the smaller groups, and saw the eco-socialist Inuit Party elected to the Parliament for the first time. The dominance of the Forward and Inuit Community parties began to wane after the snap 2014 elections, and 2018 elections.

The non-binding 2008 referendum on self-governance favoured increased self-governance 21,355 votes to 6,663.

In 1985, Greenland left the European Economic Community (EEC), unlike Denmark, which remains a member. The EEC later became the European Union (EU, renamed and expanded in scope in 1992). Greenland retains some ties with the EU via Denmark. However, EU law largely does not apply to Greenland except in the area of trade. Greenland is a member state of the Council of Europe.^[95]

Government

Municipalities of Greenland

Greenland's head of state is Margrethe II, Queen regnant of Denmark. The Queen's government in Denmark appoints a High Commissioner (*Rigsombudsmand*) to represent it on the island. The commissioner is Mikaela Engell.

Greenlanders elect two representatives to the Folketing, Denmark's parliament, out of a total of 179. The representatives are Aleqa Hammond of the Siumut Party and Aaja Chemnitz Larsen of the Inuit Community Party.^[96]

Greenland also has its own Parliament, which has 31 members. The government is the Naalakkersuisut whose members are appointed by the Premier. The head of government is the Premier, usually the leader of the majority party in Parliament. The Premier is Kim Kielsen of the Siumut Party.

Administrative divisions

Formerly consisting of three counties comprising a total of 18 municipalities, Greenland abolished these in 2009 and has since been divided into large territories known as "municipalities" (Greenlandic: *kommuneqarfiit*, Danish: *kommuner*): Sermersooq ("Much Ice") around the capital Nuuk and also including all East Coast communities; Kujalleq ("South") around Cape Farewell; Qeqqata ("Centre") north of the capital along the Davis Strait; Qeqertalik ("The one with islands") surrounding Disko Bay; and Avannaata ("Northern") in the northwest;

the latter two having come into being as a result of the Qaasuitsup municipality, one of the original four, being partitioned in 2018. The northeast of the island composes the unincorporated Northeast Greenland National Park. Thule Air Base is also unincorporated, an enclave within Avannaata municipality administered by the United States Air Force. During its construction, there were as many as 12,000 American residents but in recent years the number has been below 1,000.

Economy

*Graphical depiction of Greenland's product exports in
28 colour-coded categories*

The Greenlandic economy is highly dependent on fishing. Fishing accounts for more than 90% of Greenland's exports.^[97]
The shrimp and fish industry is by far the largest income earner.^[2]

Greenland is abundant in minerals.^[97]
Mining of ruby deposits began in 2007.
Other mineral prospects are improving as prices are increasing. These include iron,

uranium, aluminium, nickel, platinum, tungsten, titanium, and copper. Despite resumption of several hydrocarbon and mineral exploration activities, it will take several years before hydrocarbon production can materialize. The state oil company Nunaoil was created to help develop the hydrocarbon industry in Greenland. The state company Nunamineral has been launched on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange to raise more capital to increase the production of gold, started in 2007.

Tasiilaq is a town in the Sermersooq municipality in southeastern Greenland

Royal Greenland fishing vessel "Akamalik", anchored at Sisimiut

Electricity has traditionally been generated by oil or diesel power plants, even if there is a large surplus of potential hydropower. There is a programme to build hydro

power plants. The first, and still the largest, is Buksefjord hydroelectric power plant.

There are also plans to build a large aluminium smelter, using hydropower to create an exportable product. It is expected that much of the labour needed will be imported.^[98]

The European Union has urged Greenland to restrict People's Republic of China development of rare-earth projects, as China accounts for 95% of the world's current supply. In early 2013, the Greenland government said that it had no plans to impose such restrictions.^[99]

The public sector, including publicly owned enterprises and the municipalities, plays a dominant role in Greenland's economy.

About half the government revenues come from grants from the Danish government, an important supplement to the gross domestic product (GDP). Gross domestic product per capita is equivalent to that of the average economies of Europe.

Greenland suffered an economic contraction in the early 1990s. But, since 1993, the economy has improved. The Greenland Home Rule Government (GHRG) has pursued a tight fiscal policy since the late 1980s, which has helped create

surpluses in the public budget and low inflation. Since 1990, Greenland has registered a foreign-trade deficit following the closure of the last remaining lead and zinc mine that year. More recently, new sources of ruby in Greenland have been discovered, promising to bring new industry and a new export from the country. (See Gemstone industry in Greenland).

Transportation

Air Greenland Airbus A330-200 in-flight

The port of Ilulissat

Air transportation exists both within Greenland and between the island and other nations. There is also scheduled boat traffic, but the long distances lead to long travel times and low frequency. There are virtually no roads between cities because the coast has many fjords that would require ferry service to connect a

road network. The only exception is a gravel road of 3 miles length between Kangilinnguit and the now abandoned former cryolite mining town of Ivittuut.^[100] In addition, the lack of agriculture, forestry and similar countryside activities has meant that very few countryside roads have been built.

All civil aviation matters are handled by the Danish Transport Authority. Most airports including Nuuk Airport have short runways and can only be served by special fairly small aircraft on fairly short flights. Kangerlussuaq Airport around 100 kilometres (62 miles) inland from the west

coast is the major airport of Greenland and the hub for domestic flights.

Intercontinental flights connect mainly to Copenhagen. Travel between international destinations (except Iceland) and any city in Greenland requires a plane change.

Air Iceland operates flights from Reykjavík to a number of airports in Greenland, and the company promotes the service as a day-trip option from Iceland for tourists.^[101]

There are no direct flights to the United States or Canada, although there have been flights Kangerlussuaq –

Baltimore,^[102] and Nuuk – Iqaluit,^[103] which were cancelled because of too few passengers and financial losses.^[104] An alternative between Greenland and the United States/Canada is Air Iceland/Icelandair with a plane change in Iceland.^[105]

Sea passenger and freight transport is served by the coastal ferries operated by Arctic Umiaq Line. It makes a single round trip per week, taking 80 hours each direction.

Population

Demographics

Tunumiit Inuit couple from Kulusuk

Greenland has a population of 56,370 (January 2013 estimate),^[6] of whom 88% are Greenlandic Inuit (including mixed persons). The remaining 12% are of European descent, mainly Greenland Danes. Several thousand Greenlandic Inuit reside in the Danish Peninsula. The majority of the population is Lutheran.

Nearly all Greenlanders live along the fjords in the south-west of the main island, which has a relatively mild climate.^[106] More than 17,000 people reside in Nuuk, the capital city.

Languages

A bilingual sign in Nuuk, displaying the Danish and Kalaallisut for "Parking forbidden for all vehicles"

Both Greenlandic (an Eskimo–Aleut language) and Danish have been used in public affairs since the establishment of home rule in 1979; the majority of the population can speak both languages. Greenlandic became the sole official language in June 2009,^[107] In practice, Danish is still widely used in the administration and in higher education, as well as remaining the first or only language for some Danish immigrants in Nuuk and other larger towns. Debate about the roles of Greenlandic and Danish in the country's future is ongoing. The orthography of

Greenlandic was established in 1851^[108] and revised in 1973. The country has a 100% literacy rate.^[2]

A majority of the population speaks Greenlandic, most of them bilingually. It is spoken by about 50,000 people, making it the most populous of the Eskimo–Aleut language family, spoken by more people than all the other languages of the family combined.

Kalaallisut is the Greenlandic dialect of West Greenland, which has long been the most populous area of the island. This has led to its de facto status as the official

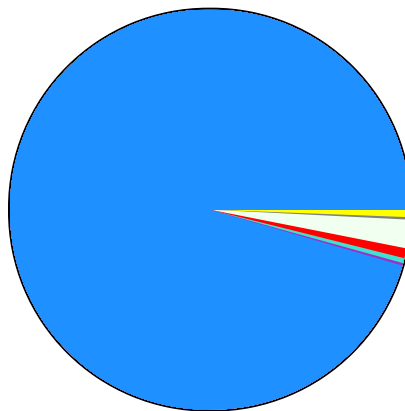
"Greenlandic" language, although the northern dialect Inuktun remains spoken by 1,000 or so people around Qaanaaq, and the eastern dialect Tunumiisut by around 3,000.^[109] Each of these dialects is almost unintelligible to the speakers of the other and are considered by some linguists to be separate languages. A UNESCO report has labelled the other dialects as endangered, and measures are now being considered to protect the East Greenlandic dialects.^[110]

About 12% of the population speak Danish as a first or sole language, particularly Danish immigrants in Greenland, many of

whom fill positions such as administrators, professionals, academics, or skilled tradesmen. While Greenlandic is dominant in all smaller settlements, a part of the population of Inuit or mixed ancestry, especially in towns, speaks Danish. Most of the Inuit population speaks Danish as a second language. In larger towns, especially Nuuk and in the higher social strata, this is still a large group. While one strategy aims at promoting Greenlandic in public life and education, developing its vocabulary and suitability for all complex contexts, there are opponents of this.

English is another important language for Greenland, taught in schools from the first school year.^[111]

Religion



Religion in Greenland (2010)^{[112][113]}

- ☐ Protestantism (95.5%)
- ☐ Roman Catholicism (0.2%)
- ☐ Other Christian (0.4%)
- ☐ Inuit spiritual beliefs (0.8%)
- ☐ Agnostic (2.3%)



Atheist (0.2%)



Other Religion (0.6%)

Most Greenlandic villages, including Nanortalik, have their own church.

The nomadic Inuit people were traditionally shamanistic, with a well-developed mythology primarily concerned with appeasing a vengeful and fingerless sea goddess who controlled the success of the seal and whale hunts.

The first Norse colonists worshipped the Norse gods, but Erik the Red's son Leif was converted to Christianity by King Olaf Trygvesson on a trip to Norway in 999 and sent missionaries back to Greenland. These swiftly established sixteen parishes, some monasteries, and a bishopric at Garðar.

Rediscovering these colonists and spreading ideas of the Protestant Reformation among them was one of the primary reasons for the Danish recolonization in the 18th century. Under the patronage of the Royal Mission College in Copenhagen, Norwegian and

Danish Lutherans and German Moravian missionaries searched for the missing Norse settlements, but no Norse were found, and instead they began preaching to the Inuit. The principal figures in the Christianization of Greenland were Hans and Poul Egede and Matthias Stach. The New Testament was translated piecemeal from the time of the very first settlement on Kangeq Island, but the first translation of the whole Bible was not completed until 1900. An improved translation using the modern orthography was completed in 2000.^[114]

Today, the major religion is Protestant Christianity, represented mainly by the Church of Denmark, which is Lutheran in orientation. While there are no official census data on religion in Greenland, the Bishop of Greenland Sofie Petersen^[115] estimates that 85% of the Greenlandic population are members of her congregation.^[116] The Church of Denmark is the established church through the Constitution of Denmark:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be the Established Church of Denmark, and, as

such, it shall be supported by the State.

— *Section IV of Constitution of Denmark*^[117]

This applies to all of the Kingdom of Denmark, except for the Faroe Islands, as the Church of the Faroe Islands became independent in 2007.

The Roman Catholic minority is pastorally served by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Copenhagen. There are still Christian missionaries on the island, but mainly

from charismatic movements proselytizing fellow Christians.^{[118][119][120][121]}

Social issues

The rate of suicide in Greenland is very high. According to a 2010 census, Greenland holds the highest suicide rate in the world.^{[122][123]} Other significant social issues faced by Greenland are high rates of unemployment, alcoholism, and HIV/AIDS.^[124] Alcohol consumption rates in Greenland reached their height in the 1980s, when it was twice as high as in Denmark, and had by 2010 fallen slightly below the average level of consumption in

Denmark (which is the 12th highest in the world). But at the same time alcohol prices are much higher, meaning that consumption has a high social impact.^{[125][126]}

Culture

Nive Nielsen, Greenlandic singer and songwriter

Panel discussion with Greenlandic movie maker Inuk Silis Høegh at the launch of his movie about groundbreaking Greenlandic band Sumé. Journalist and Sumé's record producer Karsten Sommer is speaking.

Today Greenlandic culture is a blending of traditional Inuit (Kalaallit) and Scandinavian culture. Inuit, or Kalaallit, culture has a strong artistic tradition, dating back thousands of years. The Kalaallit are known for an art form of figures called tupilak or a "spirit object."

Traditional art-making practices thrive in the *Ammassalik*.^[127] Sperm whale ivory remains a valued medium for carving.^[128]

Greenland also has a successful, albeit small, music culture. Some popular Greenlandic bands and artists include Sume (classic rock), Chilly Friday (rock), Nanook (rock), Siissisoq (rock), Nuuk Posse (hip hop) and Rasmus Lyberth (folk), who performed in the Danish Eurovision Song Contest 1979, performing in Greenlandic. The singer-songwriter Simon Lynge is the first musical artist from Greenland to have an album released across the United Kingdom, and to

perform at the UK's Glastonbury Festival. The music culture of Greenland also includes traditional Inuit music, largely revolving around singing and drums.

Sport

Sport is an important part of Greenlandic culture, as the population is generally quite active.^[129]

Popular sports include association football, track and field, handball and skiing. Handball is often referred to as the national sport,^[130] and Greenland's men's

national team was ranked among the top 20 in the world in 2001.

Greenland has excellent conditions for skiing, fishing, snowboarding, ice climbing and rock climbing, although mountain climbing and hiking are preferred by the general public. Although the country's environment is generally ill-suited for golf, there are nevertheless golf courses on the island.

See also

- [Outline of Greenland](#)
- [Index of Greenland-related articles](#)

Notes

a. *Nuna asiilasooq* has equal status as a national anthem but is generally used only on the self-government of Greenland.^[1]

References

1. "Not one but two national anthems" . Government of Greenland. Retrieved 7 October 2003.
2. "Greenland" . CIA World Factbook.
3. (in Danish) TV 2 Nyhederne – "Grønland går over til selvstyre" TV 2 Nyhederne (TV 2 News) – Ved overgangen til selvstyre, er grønlandsk nu det officielle sprog. Retrieved 22 January 2012.

4. "Self-rule introduced in Greenland" . BBC News. 21 June 2009. Retrieved 4 May 2010.
5. "Grønlands Statistik" . stat.gl.
6. Greenland in Figures 2013 (PDF). Statistics Greenland. ISBN 978-87-986787-7-9. ISSN 1602-5709 . Retrieved 2 September 2013.
7. Avakov, Aleksandr Vladimirovich (2012). Quality of Life, Balance of Powers, and Nuclear Weapons (2012): A Statistical Yearbook for Statesmen and Citizens . Algora Publishing. p. 51. ISBN 978-0-87586-892-9.
8. (in Danish) Law of Greenlandic Selfrule (see chapter 7)

9. *The Fate of Greenland's Vikings* , by Dale Mackenzie Brown, Archaeological Institute of America, 28 February 2000

10. *"Joshua Calder's World Island Information"* . Worldislandinfo.com. Retrieved 6 September 2010.

11. *"Population density (people per sq. km of land area)"* . The World Bank. Retrieved 3 November 2012.

12. *"Saqqaq-kulturen kronologi"* . National Museum of Denmark. Retrieved 2 August 2013.

13. Saillard J, Forster P, Lynnerup N, Bandelt HJ, Nørby S (2000). "mtDNA variation among Greenland Eskimos: the edge of the Beringian expansion" . American Journal of Human Genetics. **67** (3): 718–26.
doi:10.1086/303038 . PMC 1287530 .
PMID 10924403 .

14. The Portuguese Explorers .
Heritage.nf.ca. Retrieved on 21 June 2016.

15. "Qaasuitsup kommunia" .

16. "List of member states" . www.un.org.
United nations (official website). Retrieved
6 November 2018.

17. Greenland in Figures 2012 (PDF).
stat.gl. ISBN 978-87-986787-6-2.
ISSN 1602-5709 . Retrieved 10 February
2013.

18. Nordic Investment Bank. "Hydropower
creates clean energy and jobs in
Greenland" . NIB. Nordic Investment Bank.
Retrieved 2 October 2016.

19. Eirik the Red's Saga . Gutenberg.org. 8
March 2006. Retrieved 6 September 2010.

20. "How Greenland got its name" . The
Ancient Standard. 17 December 2010.

21. Grove, Jonathan (2009). "The place of Greenland in medieval Icelandic saga narrative" . *Journal of the North Atlantic*. **2**: 30–51. doi:10.3721/037.002.s206 .
Archived from the original on 11 April 2012.

22. Evans, Andrew. "Is Iceland Really Green and Greenland Really Icy?" , National Geographic (June 30, 2016).

23. Stern, p. 89

24. Grønnow, B. (1988). "Prehistory in permafrost: Investigations at the Saqqaq site, Qeqertasussuk, Disco Bay, West Greenland". *Journal of Danish Archaeology*. **7** (1): 24–39.

[doi:10.1080/0108464X.1988.10589995](https://doi.org/10.1080/0108464X.1988.10589995) .

25. Møbjerg, T. (1999). "New adaptive strategies in the Saqqaq culture of Greenland, c. 1600–1400 BC". *World Archaeology*. **30** (3): 452–65.

[doi:10.1080/00438243.1999.9980423](https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.1999.9980423) .

[JSTOR 124963](https://www.jstor.org/stable/124963) .

26. "The history of Greenland – From dog sled to snowmobile" . Greenland.com.

Archived from the original on 27

September 2011. Retrieved 10 September 2011.

27. "Migration to Greenland – the history of Greenland" . Greenland.com. Retrieved 10 September 2011.

28. Rasch, M.; Jensen, J. F. (1997). "Ancient Eskimo dwelling sites and Holocene relative sea-level changes in southern Disko Bugt, central West Greenland". *Polar Research*. **16** (2): 101–15. Bibcode:1997PolRe..16..101R . doi:10.1111/j.1751-8369.1997.tb00252.x .

29. Ramsden, P.; Tuck, J. A. (2001). "A Comment on the Pre-Dorset/Dorset Transition in the Eastern Arctic" .

Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska. New Series. 1: 7–11.

30. Grønnow, B. (1986). "Recent archaeological investigations of West Greenland caribou hunting". *Arctic Anthropology. 23 (1/2): 57–80.*
JSTOR 40316103 .

31. Rowley, G. (1940). "The Dorset culture of the eastern Arctic". *American Anthropologist. 42 (3): 490–99.*
doi:10.1525/aa.1940.42.3.02a00080 .

32. Gulløv, H. C.; Appelt, M. (2001). "Social bonding and shamanism among Late Dorset groups in High Arctic Greenland". *The archaeology of shamanism*. Routledge. p. 146. ISBN 978-0-415-25255-3.

33. Gulløv, H. C. (1996). *In search of the Dorset culture in the Thule culture. The Paleo-Eskimo Cultures of Greenland*. Copenhagen: Danish Polar Center (Publication No. 1). pp. 201–14.

34. Kudeba, N. (19 April 2014). "Chapter 5 – Norse Explorers from Erik the Red to Leif Erikson", in *Canadian Explorers*.

35. *Boraas, Tracey (2002). Sweden.*

Capstone Press. p. 24. ISBN 978-0-7368-0939-9.

36. *Grant Oster, "Unseen Property Cons and Land Scams in History" , Hankering for History, January 2, 2014. (accessed 15 Dec. 2017).*

37. *Jared Diamond (2006). Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed.*

Harmondsworth [Eng.]: Penguin. ISBN 978-0-14-303655-5.

38. *Arnold C. (June 2010) "Cold did in the Norse," Earth Magazine. p. 9.*

39. Behringer, Wolfgang (9 September 2009). Kulturgeschichte des Klimas: Von der Eiszeit zur globalen Erwärmung. Amazon.de: Wolfgang Behringer: Bücher . ISBN 9783406528668. Retrieved 6 September 2010.

40. Alley, R.; Mayewski, P.; Peel, D.; Stauffer, B. (1996). "Twin ice cores from Greenland reveal history of climate change, more". *Eos, Transactions American Geophysical Union*. **77** (22): 209–10.
Bibcode:1996EOSTr..77R.209A .
doi:10.1029/96E000142 .

41. "Why societies collapse ". ABC Science.

42. *William P. Patterson, Kristin A. Dietrich, Chris Holmden, and John T. Andrews (2010) "Two millennia of North Atlantic seasonality and implications for Norse colonies."*

<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.0902522107>

43. *Helge Ingstad; Anne Stine Ingstad (2000). The Viking Discovery of America: The Excavation of a Norse Settlement in L'Anse Aux Meadows, Newfoundland .*

Breakwater Books. pp. 28–. ISBN 978-1-55081-158-2.

44. Bishop, Rosie R., et al. "A charcoal-rich horizon at Ø69, Greenland: evidence for vegetation burning during the Norse landnám?." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40.11 (2013): 3890–902

45. Mark P. Leone; Jocelyn E. Knauf (2015). Historical Archaeologies of Capitalism . Springer. p. 211. ISBN 978-3-319-12760-6.

46. Folger, Tim. "Why Did Greenland's Vikings Vanish?" .

47. Bruce G. Trigger; Wilcomb E. Washburn; Richard E. W. Adams (1996). The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas . Cambridge University Press. p. 331. ISBN 978-0-521-57393-1.

48. "Inuit were not the first people to settle in the Arctic" , CBC News (Canada), 28 August 2014

49. Nebenzahl, Kenneth. *Rand McNally Atlas of Columbus and The Great Discoveries* (Rand McNally & Company; Genoa, Italy; 1990); *The Cantino Planisphere*, Lisbon, 1502, pp. 34–37.

50. Legal Status of Eastern Greenland Archived 11 May 2011 at the Wayback Machine., PCIJ Series A/B No. 53 (1933)

51. Justus D. Doenecke (8 July 1941). In Danger Undaunted: The Anti-Interventionist Movement of 1940–1941 . Hoover Press. ISBN 978-0-8179-8841-8.

52. Speer, Albert. *Inside the Third Reich*, 1971

53. "Deepfreeze Defense" . *Time*. 27 January 1947.

54. Miller, John J. (7 May 2001). "Let's Buy Greenland! – A complete missile-defense plan" . *National Review*. Archived from the original on 7 January 2010.

55. Keil, Kathrin (29 August 2011) "U.S. Interests in Greenland – On a Path Towards Full Independence?" , *The Arctic Institute*

56. Andrews Kurth LLP, "Oil and Gas in Greenland – Still on Ice?" Archived 19 October 2015 at the Wayback Machine., Andrewskurth.com. Retrieved on 21 June 2016.

57. Loukacheva, Natalia (2007). The Arctic Promise: Legal and Political Autonomy of Greenland and Nunavut . University of Toronto Press, p. 25 ISBN 9780802094865

58. Stern, pp. 55–56

59. Cowell, Alan (26 November 2008). "Greenland Vote Favors Independence" . The New York Times. Retrieved 4 May 2010.

60. "Vejledende folkeafstemning om selvstyre ? 25-11-2008" (in Kalaallisut). SermitValg. 26 November 2008. Retrieved 26 November 2008.

61. "CIDOB – Secession and Counter-secession. An International Relations Perspective" . CIDOB. p. 70. Retrieved 2018-05-19.

62. Description of the Greenlandic Self-Government Act on the webpage of the Danish Ministry of State Archived 22 September 2014 at the Wayback Machine."The Self-Government Act provides for the Self-Government authorities to assume a number of new fields of responsibility, such as administration of justice, including the establishment of courts of law; the prison and probation service; the police; the field relating to company law, accounting and auditing; mineral resource activities; aviation; law of legal capacity, family law and succession law; aliens and border controls; the working environment; as well as financial regulation

and supervision, cf. Schedule I and II in the Annex to the Self-Government Act."

63. Greenland takes step toward independence from Denmark . *The Daily Telegraph* (21 June 2009). Retrieved 29 September 2012.

64. "Nearly independent day" . The Economist. 20 June 2009. Retrieved 20 June 2009.

65. "Greenland set for self-rule" . The Australian. 19 June 2009. Archived from the original on 24 June 2009. Retrieved 20 June 2009.

66. Boswell, Randy (19 June 2009).

"Greenland takes big step towards full independence" . Canwest News Services.

Canada.com. Archived from the original on 24 June 2009. Retrieved 20 June 2009.

67. "The Island of Greenland" . Hidden

Journeys – explore the world from the air.

Archived from the original on 14 July 2014.

Retrieved 8 July 2014.

68. "Demographic Yearbook – Table 3:

Population by sex, rate of population

increase, surface area, and density" (PDF).

United Nations Statistics Division. 2008.

Retrieved 24 September 2010.

69. "IPCC Climate Change 2001: Working Group I: The Scientific Basis" . Grida.no. Archived from the original on 16 December 2007. Retrieved 6 September 2010.
70. "map (map on p. 4)" . Retrieved 6 September 2010.
71. DK Atlas, 2001.
72. Schneider D. (2003). "American Scientist Online – Greenland or Whiteland?" . Sigma Xi. Retrieved 3 March 2008.
73. "Find Greenland Icecap Bridges Three Islands ", Ellensburg Daily Record, 24 October 1951, p. 6. Retrieved 13 May 2012.

74. "The National Park" . Greenland.com.
Archived from the original on 27 June
2013. Retrieved 18 June 2013.

75. "Greenland Melt May Swamp LA, Other
Cities, Study Says" . National Geographic.
Retrieved 6 September 2010.

76. Alley, Richard B. *The Two-Mile Time
Machine: Ice Cores, Abrupt Climate Change,
and Our Future.* Princeton University Press,
2000, ISBN 0-691-00493-5.

77. Roach, John (16 February 2006).
"Greenland Glaciers Losing Ice Much Faster,
Study Says" . National Geographic.
Retrieved 13 September 2006.

78. Climate variability and trends along the western slope of the Greenland ice sheet during 1991–2004 , Konrad Steffen, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA Nicloas Cullen, and Russell Huff University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria.

79. Satellite shows Greenland's ice sheets getting thicker , The Register, 7 November 2005.

80. Willerslev, E.; Cappellini, E.; Boomsma, W.; Nielsen, R.; Hebsgaard, M. B.; Brand, T. B.; Hofreiter, M.; Bunce, M.; Poinar, H. N.; Dahl-Jensen, D.; Johnsen, S.; Steffensen, J. P.; Bennike, O.; Schwenninger, J.-L.; Nathan, R.; Armitage, S.; De Hoog, C.-J.; Alfimov, V.; Christl, M.; Beer, J.; Muscheler, R.; Barker, J.; Sharp, M.; Penkman, K. E. H.; Haile, J.; Taberlet, P.; Gilbert, M. T. P.; Casoli, A.; Campani, E.; Collins, M. J. (2007). "Ancient Biomolecules from Deep Ice Cores Reveal a Forested Southern Greenland" . Science. **317** (5834): 111–14.
Bibcode:2007Sci...317..111W .
doi:10.1126/science.1141758 .
PMC 2694912 . PMID 17615355 .

81. McCarthy, Michael (24 April 2007). "An island made by global warming" . The Independent. London. Archived from the original on 30 August 2008. Retrieved 4 May 2010.

82. "Place of the Year" . Blog.oup.com. 3 December 2007. Retrieved 6 September 2010.

83. Publications, Usa Int'L Business. Denmark Company Laws and Regulations Handbook: Strategic Information and Basic Laws. Place of Publication Not Identified: Intl Business Pubns Usa, 2015. 20–21. Print.

84. Revkin, Andrew C. (28 April 2008).

"Arctic Explorer Rebuts 'Warming Island' Critique" . New York Times. Retrieved 6 September 2010.

85. Heim, A. (1911). "Über die Petrographie und Geologie der Umgebung von Karsuarsuk, Nordseite der Halbinsel Nugsuak, W. Grönland" . Meddr. Grönland. **47** (3).

86. Weidick, A. (1968). "Observations on some Holocene Glacial Fluctuations in West Greenland". Meddr. Grönland. **165** (6): 1–202.

87. Kuhle, M. (1983): *Postglacial Glacier Stades of Nugssuaq Peninsula, Westgreenland (70°03'–70°10'N)*. In: Schroeder-Lanz, H. (ed.): *Colloquium Trier 15.-17.5.1980: Late- and Postglacial Oscillations of Glaciers: Glacial and Periglacial Forms*, Rotterdam: 325–355 (Im memoriam Hans Kinzl).

88. "Greenland Wildlife" . Redaction. *The Great Danish Encyclopedia*. 2014. Retrieved 8 October 2015.

89. "Greenland". *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Eleventh Edition.

90. "Animal life in Greenland – an introduction by the tourist board" .

Greenland Guide. Narsaq Tourist Office. n.d.
Retrieved 1 May 2012.

91. "The executive power is vested in the King." The Constitution of Denmark – Section 3.

92. "The body of Ministers shall form the Council of State, in which the Successor to the Throne shall have a seat when he is of age. The Council of State shall be presided over by the King..." The Constitution of Denmark – Section 17.

93. The Monarchy today – The Danish Monarchy (kongehuset.dk). Access date: 16 June 2012

94. "The King shall not be answerable for his actions; his person shall be sacrosanct." The Constitution of Denmark – Section 13.

95. "47 Member States" .

96. Folketinget – Folketinget.dk . Ft.dk. Retrieved on 21 June 2016.

97. Walsh, Maurice (2017-01-28). "'You can't live in a museum': the battle for Greenland's uranium" . The Guardian. ISSN 0261-3077 . Retrieved 2017-01-28.

98. "Greenland's red hot labour market" .
Nordic Labour Journal. 12 October 2011.
Retrieved 10 February 2013.

99. Chinese Workers—in Greenland? 10
February 2013 BusinessWeek.

100. Article about transportation in
Greenland on iExplore.com, retrieved
October 10, 2018

101. Perrin, Wendy (2015-07-21).
"Greenland Day Trip from Iceland: Is it
Worth It?" . Wendy Perrin. Retrieved
25 December 2017.

102. "Historical Maiden Flight US-Greenland – Official national guide by Greenland Tourism and Business Council" .

Greenland.com. 24 May 2007. Archived from the original on 6 October 2008.

Retrieved 6 September 2010.

103. "Air Greenland teams with First Air for Iqaluit flights" . CBC News. 7 June 2012.

Retrieved 19 August 2012.

104. "The Baltimore route is to close" . Air Greenland. 12 June 2010. Archived from the original on 18 May 2013.

105. "4 Ways to Get to Greenland" . Fodor's. 2014-02-26. Retrieved 25 December 2017.

106. "Greenland" . Stalvik.com. Retrieved 6 September 2010.

107. "Danish doubts over Greenland vote" . BBC News. 27 November 2008. Retrieved 10 February 2013.

108. Kleinschmidt, Samuel 1968 (1851): *Grammatik der grønlændischen Sprache : mit teilweisem Einschluss des Labradordialekts*. Hildesheim : Olms, 1968.

109. Mennecier, Philippe (1978). *Le tunumiisut, dialecte inuit du Groenland oriental: description et analyse*, Collection linguistique, 78, Société de linguistique de Paris.

110. "Sermersooq will secure Eastern Greenlandic" (in Danish). Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa. 6 January 2010. Retrieved 19 May 2010.

111. "Travelling in Greenland" . Greenland Representation to the EU, Greenland Home Rule Government. Archived from the original on 16 May 2014.

112. "Greenland, Religion and Social Profile | National Profiles | International Data" . Thearda.com. 2009-06-21. Retrieved 2016-06-18.

113. "Table: Christian Population as Percentages of Total Population by Country | Pew Research Center" . 2011-12-19.

114. Sørensen, Leif Kiil (29 November 2000). "Grønlandsk bibel præsenteret | Kristeligt Dagblad" . Kristeligt-dagblad.dk. Retrieved 6 September 2010.

115. "Bells ring a wake-up call for climate justice." World Council of Churches. 14 December 2010. Retrieved 30 August 2010

116. "Grønland, Grundloven og Gejstligheden" (PDF). Archived from the original (PDF) on 25 April 2012. Retrieved 30 April 2012.

117. "Constitution of Denmark" (PDF).

118. Faheem. "Ramadan in Greenland" . Masjids.in. Archived from the original on 22 October 2013. Retrieved 7 May 2012.

119. "Muslim in Greenland who Fasts for 21 hours" . Malaysia News Hub. 13 August 2011. Archived from the original on 28 February 2014. Retrieved 7 May 2012.

120. Wetaka, Ahmed. "The only Muslim in Greenland who fasts for 21 hours" . Uganda Muslims. Archived from the original on 30 June 2012. Retrieved 7 May 2012.

121. "Ramadan in Greenland: The only Muslim in the island fasts for 21 hours" . Ummid.com. 12 August 2011. Retrieved 7 May 2012.

122. "The Suicide Capital of the World" . Slate. 2009-10-09. Retrieved 13 March 2013.

123. "Rising suicide rate baffles

Greenland" . Retrieved 13 March 2013.

124. "Greenland profile – Overview" . BBC News.

125. Aage, H. (2012). "Alcohol in Greenland

1951–2010: consumption, mortality,

prices" . International Journal of

Circumpolar Health. **71**: 18444.

doi:10.3402/ijch.v71i0.18444 .

PMC 3525923 . PMID 23256091 .

126. *Madsen, M. H.; Grønbæk, M.; Bjerregaard, P.; Becker, U. (2005). "Urbanization, migration and alcohol use in a population of Greenland Inuit". International Journal of Circumpolar Health. 64 (3): 234–45. doi:10.3402/ijch.v64i3.17987 . PMID 16050317 .*
127. *Hessel, p. 20*
128. *Hessel, p. 21*
129. *Wilcox and Latif, p. 109*
130. *Wilcox and Latif, p. 110*

Bibliography

- Hessel, Ingo (2006). *Arctic Spirit*. Vancouver, BC: Douglas and McIntyre. ISBN 978-1-55365-189-5.
- Stern, Pamela (2004). *Historical Dictionary of the Inuit*. Lanham, Maryland: The Scarecrow Press, Inc. ISBN 978-0-8108-5058-3. OCLC 54768167 .
- Wilcox, Jonathan; Latif, Zawiah Abdul (2007). *Cultures of the World: Iceland* . Marshall Cavendish. ISBN 978-0-7614-2074-3.

Works cited

- Bardarson, I. (ed. Jónsson, F.) "Det gamle Grønlands beskrivelse af Ívar Bárðarson (Ivar Bårdssön)", (Copenhagen, 1930).
- CIA World Factbook, 2000.

- Conkling, P. W. et al. 2011. The Fate of Greenland: Lessons from Abrupt Climate Change, co-authored with Richard Alley, Wallace Broecker and George Denton, with photographs by Gary Comer, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Lund S (1959). "The Marine Algae of East Greenland. 1. Taxonomical Part". *Meddr Gronland*. **156** (1): 1–245.
- Lund S (1959). "The Marine Algae of East Greenland. 11. Geographic Distribution". *Meddr Gronland*. **156**: 1–70.
- Steffen, Konrad, N. Cullen, and R. Huff (2005). "Climate variability and trends along the western slope of the Greenland Ice Sheet during 1991–2004", *Proceedings of the 85th*

American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting (San Diego).

- Sowa F (2013). "Indigenous Peoples and the Institutionalization of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Greenland". *Arctic Anthropology*. **50** (1): 72–88.
[doi:10.3368/aa.50.1.72](https://doi.org/10.3368/aa.50.1.72) .
- Sowa, F. 2013. *Relations of Power & Domination in a World Polity: The Politics of Indigeneity & National Identity in Greenland*. In: Heininen, L. *Arctic Yearbook 2013. The Arctic of regions vs. the globalized Arctic*. Akureyri: Northern Research Forum, pp. 184–198.
www.arcticyearbook.com/ay2013
- Sowa, F. 2014. *Greenland*. in: Hund, A. *Antarctica and the Arctic Circle: A Geographic Encyclopedia of the Earth's Polar Regions*.

Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO,
pp. 312–316.

External links

Greenland

at Wikipedia's sister projects

Definitions

from

Wiktionary

Media

from

Wikimedia

Commons

News from
Wikinews

Texts from
Wikisource

Travel

guide from
Wikivoyage

Resources
from

Wikiversity

Data from
Wikidata

Overviews and data

- Greenland entry at *Denmark.dk*.

- "Greenland" . *The World Factbook*.
Central Intelligence Agency.
- Greenland entry at *Encyclopædia Britannica*.
- A guide to Greenlandic Culture at *culture.gl*.
- Greenland at *UCB Libraries GovPubs*.
- Greenland at Curlie
- Daily updated satellite images from Greenland

Government

- The Government of Greenland Offices
official website

Trade

- World Bank Summary Trade Statistics
Greenland

Travel

- Visit Greenland – the official
Greenlandic Tourist Board
- A Photographer's View of Greenland
Documentary produced by Murray
Fredericks

Other

- The Norse in the North Atlantic:
Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage
Memorial University of Newfoundland.

- Vifanord.de – library of scientific information on the Nordic and Baltic countries.
- NAPA – Nordic Institute of Greenland

Retrieved from

"<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Greenland&oldid=876034366>"

Last edited 11 hours ago by Jerry St...

Content is available under CC BY-SA 3.0 unless otherwise noted.